

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 041523Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8126

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 2089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT PDEV VC

SUBJ: ST. VINCENT MOVES CLOSER TO INDEPENDENCE

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1946, 1951

1. REUTER'S REPORT FROM KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT, PUBLISHED BY LOCAL DAILY ADVOCATE-NEWS THIS MORNING, QUOTES BOTH PREMIER JAMES MITCHELL AND OPPOSITION LEADER MILTON CATO (WHO IS EXPECTED TO WIN UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION AND REPLACE MITCHELL) AS FAVORING INDEPENDENCE FOR ST. VINCENT. ACCORDING TO REPORT, MITCHELL HAS SAID: "I HOPE THIS IS THE LAST ELECTION HELD IN ST. VINCENT UNDER THE ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD CONSTITUTION." CATO IS QUOTED AS DECLARING: "THE ST. VINCENT LABOUR PARTY IS COMMITTED TO THE CONCEPT OF FULL INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN INTEGRATED WEST INDIAN NATION OR IF NECESSARY ON ITS OWN DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS."

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS, LEADERS OF ANTIGUA, DOMINICA, AND ST. LUCIA HAVE ALL RECENTLY ADDRESSED ISSUE OF INDEPENDENCE.

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APPARENTLY, VINCENTIAN LEADERS FEEL COMPELLED BY LOCAL POLITICAL

PRESSURES TO FOLLOW SUIT, EVEN THOUGH IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ME IN SEPTEMBER BOTH MITCHELL AND CATO STATED OPINION THAT ST. VINCENT WOULD BE UNWISE TO SEEK INDEPENDENCE ALONE, AND, IN MITCHELL'S CASE, DOUBT WAS EVEN EXPRESSED WITH REGARD TO INDEPENDENCE IN ASSOCIATION WITH OTHERS.

SIMMS

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Message Attributes

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